

## **Brief Notes of the Hydrologic Unit Delineation Meeting of October 29, 2002**

Handouts were: (1) Agenda; (2) Federal Standards for Delineation of Hydrologic Unit Boundaries (FGDC) Proposal, Version 1.0, March 1, 2002; (3) Watershed Boundary Dataset (WBD); and (4) Hydrologic Unit Boundary Delineation Process Used in Utah.

The meeting was opened and moderated by Larry Zink, GIS Steering Committee.

Introductions were made by each participant. Approximately ?\_\_\_? Were in attendance. Larry introduced Ken Legleiter, NRCS, from Ft. Worth Carto.

Ken gave an overview of the Watershed Boundary Dataset (WBD) (refer to handout #3). Using a power point presentation, Ken gave a history of watershed and subwatershed hydrologic units since 1974; interagency coordination to develop uniform standards, guidelines, and procedures for water information; with an objective to create a single seamless nationally consistent and accurate geospatial unit based on scientific, hydrologic and mapping principles. He also referred to the FGDC Proposal (refer to handout #2).

Larry introduced Rich Kern from the Nebraska Dept of Natural Resources. Rich presented the current status of Nebraska Watershed Data and the history of how Nebraska got to where we are. The 1992 information has been used for gaging drainage areas, for watershed studies, drainage basin analysis, etc. As data is converted over to ARCINFO for error detection and editing, there is an increased demand for better data. Current equipment includes numerous pentium and unix workstations in Nebraska.

Larry introduced Karen Hanson, USGS, from Utah. Karen reported on process being used in Utah (refer to Handout #4). Karen is the coordinator in Utah and willing to work with Nebraska to get a process started. NRCS has agreed to take the lead with Matt Cast as coordinator.

Rich Kern gave a comparison of current Nebraska data and Watershed Boundary Dataset.

Participants each described what their interest was in being at this meeting. Representatives from USGS in Lincoln wanted to get ideas on how data will be used and offered support to Nebraska in their effort to match data at state boundaries. They expressed a willingness to support the GIS community in Lincoln and currently have internet access for local information.

NRCS engineering is interested in what tools will be needed to promote getting the job done faster and better with limited resources and who is willing to help.

NRDs also concerned with tools needed and how they can use this dataset in working with cities and counties on bridge, culverts, and flood plain issues.

Other concerns were expressed at to correctness of boundaries and areas and then how to educate public on how data was derived; how people outside this committee might see information; and the amount of work and problems to bring it all together.

Question was asked as to what Nebraska can expect as to cost and time. Karen gave figures concerning Utah's experience as to time in staff years and dollars spent (refer to handout #4). Funding in Utah was received from seven different sources. She said it would be important to make a commitment, decide on a process, and most important to keep on it. She suggested a

team with one coordinator. In Utah they worked on one sub-basin at a time as each sub-basin is different. Also DOQQs were downloaded for each.

As to timeline, Ken said that the original completion date nationally was the end of calendar year 2002, but now looking to end of FY 2003 or September 30, 2003.

Larry asked how many had a serious interest and are willing to participate in more meetings. Majority voted to continue. He suggested that GIS Steering Committee create an advisory group with NRCS lead to look further into a coordinated effort by interested agencies. He requested those with a serious interest to draft "homework assignments" and submit to him. The assignments would include:

- (1) Identify and briefly outline your agency's interest in and likely applications of the WBD dataset
- (2) Briefly outline any concerns that your agency might have relative to the processes and/or criteria that might be used to develop the sub-area watershed boundaries; and
- (3) Briefly outline your agency's interest in partnering in the development of this dataset and ways in which that partnership might be supported (i.e., possible funding sources, in-kind, etc.).

Larry expressed the importance of keeping a working group together and asked each agency to decide who will serve as liaison. The group decided on November 12, 2002 at 9 am in the Federal Building for the next meeting. We plan to communicate by e-mail so please provide your e-mail address.

Larry invited the group to attend a session this afternoon at 1 pm when Ken and Karen would again make their presentations.